



3-31-04

1746

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of: John C. Moore      Group Art Unit: 1746  
Serial No.: 10/061,556      Examiner: Zeinab E. El-Arini  
Filed: 02/01/2002  
For: Cured Polymers Dissolving Composition

AMENDMENT

United States Patent  
and Trademark Office  
Commissioner for Patents      March 30, 2004  
Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment      Parsippany, NJ 07054  
PO Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Responsive to the Office Letter of March 23, 2004 in the above-identified application, applicant elects the invention designated as "I" by the Examiner and comprising claims 1-8, drawn to a composition.

It is respectfully requested that this requirement be reconsidered and withdrawn.

While the Examiner has correctly noted claim 9-12 are drawn to process for removal of cured polymeric resin using the composition of the elected claims, the essence of the invention resides in the novel composition of claims elected 1-8; the process claims functioning to provide a measure of supplementary protection for the invention of claims 1-8.

As a practical matter the process claims are regarded as not independent from the composition claims even though a distinction between the product and process claims can be made within the contemplation of 37 CFR 14(b). In other words, the purpose of the process claims is essentially the utilization of the composition of claims 1-8.

In connection with the foregoing, it is believed that the art would best be served by retention of the process claims of Group II with those of the elected claims of Group I

and that the search and examination of the entire application can be made without serious burden. Accordingly, it is submitted as within the discretion of the Examiner, under the circumstances that both the process claims for applying the specific composition and the claims to the composition be retained in the same patent.

In the event that the requirement for restriction is repeated and made final, applicant respectfully requests that the non-elected claims be held in abeyance pending the determination of Examiner's allowability of claims to the elected invention.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Arthur J. Plantamura".

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